

The Gardiner Commission.

By a despatch in another column it will be seen that the commission sent out by the Government to explore the localities of Dr. GARDNER'S mines in Mexico arrived in New Orleans on the 11th.

The Yellow Fever in New Orleans.

We are pained to hear by a telegraphic despatch that the yellow fever is fearfully on the increase in New Orleans. The number of deaths from it on Wednesday last amounted to one hundred and ninety-five.

Voluntary Resumption—Mississippi Bonds.

We write in the general gratification which pervades the American public upon the removal of this imputation upon American faith by the recent decision that the repudiated bonds are legally obligatory upon the State of Mississippi. It presents the admirable spectacle of a people who have voluntarily acknowledged obligations which no authority could have imposed upon them. The resumption of Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Illinois, have furnished striking proofs of two peculiar features of American finance. The first: that as almost the entire amount of State indebtedness has been invested in works for the physical or moral improvement of the State, the debt has furnished the means of its own liquidation. The second: that these debts having been contracted with an honest purpose, the States have faithfully employed the earliest means of returning ability to reinstate their credit and reimburse their creditors.

In both these particulars the European governments present a wide contrast with our own. European debt has generally represented little except that writing on the sand—"the balance of power"—ever to be renewed with every dash of the popular surge; or it represents wars, subsidies or intrigues. Bunker Hill cost England an immense item of her present debt. Trafalgar, Waterloo, New Orleans added to the same obligation. Yet if England should fail to meet the quarterly interest upon the sum of nearly five thousand millions of dollars, for which she is responsible, she could not obtain an advance upon the national acquisitions or honors for which she incurred the original investment. But the States of the Union to which we have referred are in a widely different condition. Pennsylvania has a property in canals and railroads upon which the public creditor could rely, and the State government has a taxable value enhanced by the expenditures which contribute to the same result; and so with Maryland and Illinois. Even the comparatively injudicious investments of these two last States has laid the foundation of a popular wealth and demonstrated an honesty of popular purpose which has restored them to the confidence of men of morals as well as men of money. The difference in the systems of European and American indebtedness is obvious: the former live the lives of improvident debtors who subsist chiefly upon their credit. If they suspend, resumption is impracticable, since the debt represents no investment which can be subjected to responsibility or made available in market. Hence the error of European capitalists in applying to the United States the rules of public credit as they have been established upon the other side of the Atlantic; and hence the immense depreciation of American securities consequent upon the cases of suspension to which we have adverted. The moral of these resurrections is, that money judiciously invested with an honest intent of repayment cannot fail to be ultimately responsible.

There is, however, another American peculiarity, in the acknowledgment of the Mississippi debt, which should not fail to produce its influence upon the reflective mind. This debt has not been very large. We do not think it has exceeded five millions of dollars. The State of Mississippi could always have paid it without material sacrifice. Of late years she has had an actual surplus sufficient perhaps to have extinguished it. The legal argument has been against Mississippi, for whilst it was clear that her agents had made an immoral application of certificates of credit entrusted to them, it was equally clear that the innocent purchasers of those certificates had no notice of this misapplication. The creditors purchased on the faith of the character and ability of the State to redeem her engagements, and in no wise participated in the fraud practised upon her. Such we believe to have been the circumstances of the case. Now the efforts to compel the State of Mississippi to acknowledge the debt, by the satires of SIDNEY SMITH or the homilies of the foreign moralists, have had exactly the same effect, with the ridicule and reproach employed by the Abolitionists to destroy the institution of slavery, so far from producing a good result, it has enhanced the stubborn determination to yield nothing to compulsion. But the stringent force employed by foreign intervention to effect the recognition of the protested debt having exhausted itself, the tribunals of the State have as a matter of domestic jurisdiction taken up the question of State liability, and have decided in a manner gratifying to every friend of republican faith and public justice. We hope that this result may not be without its moral, and that the philanthropists who propose to force the slaveholders to acknowledge themselves the most unworthy of mankind as a preliminary to submitting to the dictation of Exeter Hall or Buffalo, will have the wisdom to see that while Americans tolerate no such intervention, but that left to themselves they will modify an institution or acknowledge a debt according to their own sense of their own duty.

NEWSPAPER CHANGE.—We have received the first number of the *Alexandria (Va.) Standard*, being the new name given to the *Alexandria Age*. The editors of the *Age* have retired, and the *Standard* will be conducted hereafter by John P. Bentley, proprietor, and George L. Gordon, editor. The paper is to be Democratic, and will be issued tri-weekly.

Meeting for the Relief of New Orleans Sufferers.

We are gratified to publish the results of the philanthropic measures taken by our citizens, in conjunction with some of the citizens of the fated city of New Orleans. They serve to show that in every part of this vast Republic the popular heart always responds to the appeals of suffering.

[REPORTED FOR THE REPUBLIC.] MEETING AT THE NATIONAL HOTEL.

A number of gentlemen from New Orleans and the Southwest, in accordance with the published notice, assembled at the National Hotel, on Saturday evening, at 6 o'clock, to concert measures for the relief of the sufferers by the present desolating epidemic in New Orleans.

Professor Dr. Bow was called to the chair, and Dr. ELY appointed secretary.

Professor Dr. Bow said that as the object of the meeting was understood, it was scarcely necessary for him to make any remarks. It was proper that Louisiana and gentlemen from the Southwest, now in Washington, should express some feeling of sympathy for the sufferers of New Orleans, and resort at once to tangible measures to alleviate the distress. He regretted that there was not a larger meeting, but trusted that all citizens would consider it a privilege, as well as a duty, to co-operate in this cause.

Captain Lewis offered the following resolutions: Resolved, That this meeting, sympathizing deeply in the calamity which has fallen upon their fellow-citizens of New Orleans in the present unparalleled epidemic, will cheerfully co-operate with the meeting of citizens called by his honor the Mayor.

Resolved, That the chairman of this meeting be requested to present the above resolution at the meeting of citizens, and that we now adjourn to attend the same.

The resolutions were adopted, and accordingly the meeting adjourned.

MEETING AT THE CITY HALL.

At half-past six o'clock there was an assemblage of some of our most prominent and liberal citizens in the chamber of the Board of Common Council.

Colonel W. W. SEATON moved that the Mayor of Washington take the chair, and this was agreed to unanimously, as was likewise the motion that Professor Dr. Bow act as secretary.

The publication of the Mayor, calling the meeting "for the purpose of adopting measures to obtain contributions for the relief of the suffering inhabitants of New Orleans under the afflictive calamity which is now desolating their city," having been read by the secretary—

The Mayor, with a view of proceeding to business at once, and by way, as he said, of introduction, laid before the meeting the following note from the President of the United States:

"WASHINGTON, August 13, 1853.

"MY DEAR SIR: I am gratified to see in this morning's papers a call, signed by yourself, for a meeting of the citizens of this city, to make arrangements for a suitable contribution for the aid of the sufferers in New Orleans. I enclose herewith fifty dollars, which I wish you to add to any fund that may be raised for the object referred to.

"Your friend and servant,
"FRANK. PIERCE.

"Hon. JOHN W. MAURY, Mayor of Washington, D. C."

Colonel SEATON remarked, he supposed every one present had read in the newspapers the extent of the calamity now overwhelming the city of New Orleans, and therefore it was unnecessary to repeat the statement. Some years ago, three or four thousand dollars were raised in Washington and sent on for the relief of the Pittsburgh sufferers by fire. The loss of property cannot be compared with the scourge now raging in New Orleans; for the conflagration leaves life and strength to battle with adversity; but here is a calamity which brings death, and leaves women and children penniless. Hence, it calls more loudly and deeply for exertions for relief than do sufferings by fire. Many heartrending accounts appear in the newspapers, calling forth our warmest and tenderest sympathies. After these prefatory remarks, he moved that a committee of five for each ward be appointed to solicit contributions, to be placed in the hands of the Mayor, to be by him transmitted to the proper authorities in New Orleans.

The motion was agreed to, and the following committees were appointed by the Mayor:

First Ward.—W. W. Corcoran, C. St. John Chubb, Dr. William B. Magruder, Wm. Wilson, and James W. Sheahan.

Second Ward.—Robert Armstrong, William F. Bayly, Lewis Johnson, John Seaford, and John F. Ennis.

Third Ward.—Wm. W. Seaton, Dr. Chas. F. Force, French S. Evans, Francis Mohan, and Robert S. Patterson.

Fourth Ward.—J. M. Carlisle, Geo. S. Gideon, Peter F. Bacon, John C. McKelden, and Silas H. Hill.

Fifth Ward.—B. B. French, John P. Ingle, John Purdy, Wm. J. McDonald, and Geo. Waterson.

Sixth Ward.—Gen. A. Henderson, Robert M. Combs, Wm. Eashy, James A. Gordon, and Jas. Crandell.

Seventh Ward.—Wm. B. Randolph, D. B. Clarke, Dr. Jas. E. Morgan, Peter M. Pearson, and Wm. R. Riley.

Professor Dr. Bow arose and read the resolutions which were adopted at the meeting at the National Hotel, and which he had been requested to present to the assemblage. He said that he and others would not now be there were it not for the unparalleled, and the great, overpowering nature of the calamity with which New Orleans is visited. This was one of the occasions which rendered it proper to receive contributions, and which made aid a virtue, calling for the exercise of charity for the relief of the distressed. New Orleans, he said, stands peculiar and alone in her position. She did not ask assistance for herself, but for the thousands of unfortunate strangers cast upon her shores. It may be of interest to know that in the six years preceding 1850 the total of admissions in the charity hospital of that city was sixty thousand; of which seven hundred only were of citizens of Louisiana, ten thousand of other States, and nearly fifty thousand foreigners. In 1850 there were nine thousand six hundred and eighty deaths in the city, of which only one thousand were known to be citizens, the remainder foreigners and from other States unknown. In 1849 the number of admissions in the charity hospital was eighteen thousand six hundred and eighty, of which two hundred and forty were of citizens, fifteen hundred from other States, and over fifteen thousand foreigners. The annual average expense is \$60,000; paid by the State about \$15,000 or \$20,000, being nearly thirty per cent., while her share of patients is only a little over one per cent. Howard Society, chartered in 1839, which exists exclusively on charity, will perhaps treat fifteen hundred or two thousand cases. The whole mortality by fever may reach seven thousand, above ten per cent. of her residents now, or one death to every other house, and perhaps require

in charity for thirty thousand cases, half of which will be necessitous, \$100,000 from all sources.

Col. SEATON suggested that the prevalence of the disease in New Orleans paralyses all descriptions of business. Nobody is able to earn anything for his own support and that of his family; and when the father is taken away, the wife and children are left in a destitute condition. He had never known of a cause to call more loudly for assistance.

Colonel WILDER, of New Orleans, in the course of his remarks said he was here as a stranger. The statements which had been made by the secretary (Mr. De Bow) were perfectly true, and he had nothing to add to them, except that whenever any calamity had befallen our beloved country—when ever any city has been overtaken by disaster or desolation, the citizens of New Orleans have always been foremost, of all others, to aid and assist. When the citizens of New York suffered from the calamity of fire, New Orleans did her best to relieve them. But the citizens of New Orleans did not come here to beg. No, they come to state their cause, and to say: "We have done for others what we ask you to do for us in our hour of adversity." He would remark that whatever might be contributed towards the relief of the sufferers in New Orleans, would be faithfully applied there for that purpose.

J. M. CARLISLE, esq., of this city, addressed the meeting as follows:

"MR. MAYOR AND GENTLEMEN: I should not feel that I had done my whole duty on this occasion if I contented myself with giving of my scanty store of worldly wealth in aid of the object which has brought us together here. Let me remind every one here present that he is now to pay a debt to which he is held by the great bond of our common nature, and that it is not to be discharged by his money only, but by the earnest, active use of every faculty, in private appeals and in public writing and speaking, to arouse and stimulate others to answer with prompt and liberal aid that wall of suffering which comes up to us from brethren in distress. Sir, the occasion appeals to you in the great name of humanity. It appeals to the common heart of mankind. It appeals, sir, in touching accents to you and to me, beneath whose roof dwell health and plenty, whom God has been pleased to bless with wives and children and kindred unvisited by disease. But to him who has stood by the bed of sickness and of death, who has seen those near and dear to him agonized with racking pains and scorching fevers, what a well of sympathy must not open in his heart! And if there be a creature whose soul has never stretched beyond himself—who breathes and moves and has his being but in self, he too, in very selfishness, must yield to this appeal. He can fancy that all-absorbing self in the chances of this mortal life flung upon some distant shore—poverty and pestilence (what a world of woe is in those words!) leagued together against him. He can imagine himself among strangers—on his dying bed—with no hand to wipe the cold sweat from his brow, or the tear from his eye—none to give a drop of water to cool his parched tongue—no friendly hand to feel his dying grasp. This is the just fate of him who cannot feel another's woe!"

"Sir, I do not know that I can say more. My object has been in few unadvised words to urge each one who hears me to give himself heartily to this good work."

"It appeals to us as Americans with peculiar force. The cry of distress comes from a city which need not state its account with us in dollars and cents. Her very name is a national treasure. He can fancy that all-absorbing self in the chances of this mortal life flung upon some distant shore—poverty and pestilence (what a world of woe is in those words!) leagued together against him. He can imagine himself among strangers—on his dying bed—with no hand to wipe the cold sweat from his brow, or the tear from his eye—none to give a drop of water to cool his parched tongue—no friendly hand to feel his dying grasp. This is the just fate of him who cannot feel another's woe!"

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WASHINGTON GOSSIP.

WASHINGTON, August 14, 1853.

From reliable quarters I learn that the many important questions connected with our foreign affairs are just now receiving the anxious consideration and attention of the honorable Secretary of State and his accomplished assistant, Dudley Mann, esq. Discarding, for the present, minor matters connected with our foreign relations, it cannot be doubted that the following subjects are of momentous and imposing interest:

First—The kidnapping of Koska in Smyrna.

Second—The incarceration of Captain Gibson by the Dutch authorities.

Third—The fishery difficulties; and

Fourth—The alleged interference of England with slavery in the island of Cuba.

It is currently reported that the documents relating to the efforts of her Britannic Majesty's ministers to promote the abolition of involuntary servitude in the "Queen of the Antilles," have, for the most part, been committed to the keeping of Secretaries Davis and Dobbin, who are expected to thoroughly investigate them, and present a statement of their contents, together with their opinion, in writing, as to the most wise and judicious course to pursue in the premises. When the views of those southern members of the Cabinet are communicated to the President and their colleagues in Cabinet council, then the whole matter will be discussed and a decision made. There seems to me to be an evident, a peculiar propriety in committing this delicate subject, one so closely connected with the "peculiar institution" of the States lying South of "Mason and Dixon's line," to the careful consideration of the Secretaries of War and Navy. The President is believed to entertain an elevated opinion of the talents, the judgment, and patriotism of the Hon. Jefferson Davis; and it is said, moreover, that it is the intention of the Executive, should an emergency arise, to maintain at all hazards the interests of his southern friends.

The President and Messrs. Marcy and Mann will give to the other subjects their enlightened consideration and undivided attention; and the public, irrespective of party, entertain the belief, the conviction, that whatever may be decided on will be for the public weal—the maintenance untarnished of our national honor.

Who are to be the recipients of the mission to France and to Constantinople are matters which have not been decided, or rather the names of the fortunate appointees have not transpired. I hazard little in saying that ere long their names will grace the public journals.

Major Thomas S. Bryant, editor of the Lexington (Missouri) Chronicle, received on Saturday a piece of parchment, which, upon reading, he ascertained to be a commission which invested him with the duties and responsibilities of the office of marshal of Missouri.

Major Bryant is the brother of our esteemed fellow-citizen Captain John Y. Bryant. He is a gentleman of talents and probity, an unswerving, indomitable Democrat, but in sentiment inexorably and bitterly anti-Benton. By the bye, "Old Bullion" has fared badly under this Administration. He has succeeded in obtaining but one of the appointments in his own beloved Missouri—that of T. C. Tuttle, Register of the Land Office at St. Louis. A Gamble, esq., the Whig postmaster at St. Louis, has not yet been decapitated, and the special mail agent for the State has not been appointed. There are some who believe that the old man indignantly will be heard next winter. As my venerable friend Mr. Ritchie would say, *vous m'excusez*.

Thomas Woodward, esq., Naval Storekeeper, Washington, has been invited to retire, and Francis McNerlany, esq., been invested by the Administration with the seals of the office. Mr. Woodward retires gracefully and with the esteem of his fellow-citizens. The appointee is a worthy, honorable, and intellectual gentleman, a shining member of the typographical profession, and I have no doubt he will discharge the duties of the office which has been conferred upon him with fidelity and honor.

Judge A. O. P. Nicholson, author of the leading editorial articles in the *Union* for some time past, left last evening's cars on a visit to Tennessee, via New York. The Judge is a gentleman of high intellectual endowments and enlarged attainments; a writer able and vigorous, yet at all times dignified and courteous to his adversaries. As Oliver Cromwell would say, "May the Lord grant him journeying mercies."

Colonel J. W. Forney, it is understood, has at length completed his arrangements for "taking and holding the reins" of the New York *National Democrat*, and will shortly enter upon the discharge of the duties of his new position.

Governor Reed, of North Carolina, Thomas Butler King, of California, General J. W. Quitman, of Mississippi, and Captain Gibson, of incarcerating celebrity, are in the city.

Senator Truman Smith, who has been on a visit to Lake Superior, returned to the city yesterday.

BRITISH FORCE AT THE FISHERIES.—By the following, which we take from the Halifax correspondence of the New York Herald, will be seen the strength of the naval force now on the fishing coasts:

Schedule of the Ships and Vessels of War at present on the British North American Station, under Vice Admiral Sir George Seymour.

HALIFAX HARBOR.

Cumberland, flag-ship, 70 guns, Captain G. H. Seymour.

Leander (special service) 50, Captain King—will leave for England about Monday next.

Vesta (preparing for sea) 38, Lieutenant Henry, acting captain.

Calypsso (sails soon) 18, Captain A. Forbes.

Medea (steamer) 6, Commander Bailey.

FISHERY SERVICE.

Argus (300 horse-power) 6, Commander Purvis.

Basilek (400 horse-power) 6, Commander Eger-ton.

Devastation 6, Commander Campbell.

Rose (hired) 2, Lieutenant DeHorsey.

Netley (cutter) 2, Lieutenant Newport.

Alce Rogers (schooner), hired; 2, Lieutenant Pickell.

Dart (schooner, hired) 2, Lieutenant Jenkins.

Bonita 2, Lieutenant Lindsay.

Several boats are also stationed on the coasts.

EXPECTED ON THE STATION.

Brisk (steamer) 14 guns.

Norburd (brig) 12.

The American force consists of the Princeton, which when last heard from had reached a working speed of four miles an hour, with daily interruptions however, made necessary to tinker the machinery.

PARIS FASHIONS.—The latest accounts from Paris say "the most fashionable dresses just now are robes noires, mother-of-pearl dresses, made of silk and wool, admirably combined, which give to that dress the varying colors which justify its name. These dresses are made with three flounces, and each flounce is arranged differently. They take the place of the baggies, whose reign seems ended. The sleeves do not come down lower than the elbows; they are very large, and are trimmed at the elbow with a large flounce, flatly sewed on."

An Appeal for Practical Sympathy in Behalf of the Slave.

In the Charleston Mercury of the 10th instant we find a copy of a letter which has been sent by a lady of South Carolina to the Duchess of Sutherland. No name appears to the published copy, though the original we are informed has the name and address of the writer in full. It is dated July 30, 18